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positions to their latched positions and opening in opposite directions in their latched positions." This language is believed to better define the intended hook movement and the ultimate relative hook disposition in the latched position. That is, the hooks must either open toward each other or open away from each other in their latched position to preclude someone removing the door from the door frame by simply lifting the door off of the keeper structures associated with the hooks. Similar language has been incorporated in claims 28 and 29 by amendment to these claims. New claim 34 is believed to be consistent with discussions with the Examiner wherein it was agreed that Applicant is entitled to a claim such as claim 1 as presented in Applicant's amendment of January 21, 1998 with the additional limitation with respect to the movement of the hooks in opposite directions about their respective pivot axes from their unlatched positions to their latched positions with the hooks opening in opposite directions in their latched positions.

Comments on Reasons for Allowance

With respect to the Examiner's reasons for allowance, the Examiner has stated that the prior art of record does not teach a multi-point sliding door latch and handle assembly wherein the hooks move in opposite directions about their respective pivot axes from a latched position to an unlatched position.... and an adjuster means operative to separately adjust the position of each hook

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relative to the housing. Whereas this is true, it is also true that the prior art does not teach either of these two features so that claims reciting the adjuster means feature without the opposite hook movement feature (such as claims 1 and 14) distinguish patentably over the prior art as do claims which recite the opposite hook movement feature without the adjuster means feature (such as claims 10 and 21).

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his considerable assistance during several telephone conferences in agreeing upon appropriate claim terminology to distinguish over the prior art.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald L. Wood
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 20,014
(248) 649-3333

3001 West Big Beaver Rd., Suite 624
Troy, Michigan 48084-3107

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DLW/rlm